

| 3036.0 | 3199.0 | 4818.0 |  |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 332.0 | $\frac{371.0}{}$ | 405.0 |  |
| 5645.0 | 475.0 | 5773.0 |  |
| 1138.0 | 1233.0 | 2429.0 |  |
| 418.0 | 94.0 |  |  |
| $\frac{1154.0}{2750.0}$ | $\frac{1263.0}{}$ | 1142.0 |  |
| 2710.0 | 2590.0 | 3671.0 |  |

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '09'11

Book Value
$\begin{array}{lrr}15.5 \% & 11.5 \% & 8.5 \% \\ 13.0 \% & 7.5 \% & 9.5 \%\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{rrr}13.0 \% & 7.5 \% & 9.5 \% \\ -\overline{N M F} \\ 15.0 \% & 10.0 \% & 6.0 \%\end{array}$

| Fiscal <br> Year <br> Begins | QUARTERLY SALES(\$ mill.) A <br> Apr.Per Jul.Per |  |  |  | Full <br> Fil.Per |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2009 | 3638 | 3806 | 4051 | 5683 | 17178 |
| Year. |  |  |  |  |  |

BUSINESS: Kohl's Corporation operates a large chain of familyoriented department stores in all states except Hawaii. The company sells brand-name and private-label merchandise with an emphasis on value pricing. Private-label and exclusive brands are $50 \%$ of sales. '11 sales mix: women's apparel, 31\%; men's apparel, 19\%; home products and housewares, 19\%; children's apparel, 13\%; ac-
Kohl's holiday quarter results were disappointing. November's 5.6\% compstore sales decline mainly came from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Moreover, the company likely lost sales (to rivals) by not opening early on Thanksgiving. Furthermore, K ohl's online operation had technical challenges due to heavy traffic on Thanksgiving night, and for a short time on Cyber Monday. Meanwhile, December sales (comps up $3.4 \%$ ) were lower than planned with buying coming late in the month. That caused the company to take significant markdowns on excess inventory. (Further markdowns were likely taken in J anuary to clear the decks for Spring merchandise.) Weighing results through December, K ohl's quarterly earnings guidance was sliced to $\$ 1.60-\$ 1.62$ versus its earlier target of \$2.00-\$2.08. (Investors suffered as its share price fell from \$51.71 since our last report.)

## Earnings should recover somewhat in

 fiscal 2013. However, we believe Kohl's middle-income purchasers won't be aggressive buyers, particularly after having an"extra" $2 \%$ Social Security tax deducted from their paychecks. Thus the company's
cessories, $10 \%$; footwear, $8 \%$. Has 142,000 employees. Officers \& directors own $8.8 \%$ of stock; Capital Research, 9.4; T. Rowe Price, 10.7\% (3/12 proxy). Chairman, President \& CEO Kevin Mansell. Incorporated: Wisconsin. Address: N56 W17000 Ridgewood Drive, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051-5660. Telephone: 262-7037000. Internet: www.kohls.com.
next earnings conference call will probably reveal a 2013 goal of a flat to low-single digit comp-store sales gain. We also expect to hear about developments in the home and beauty areas. These will influence the number of store remodels going forward. The company should ultimately refresh 100 locations yearly to make its stores look better than the competition.
Despite tough times, Kohl's plans to reward its shareholders. The company increased its three year share repurchase program by $\$ 3.2$ billion, to $\$ 3.5$ billion. Kohl's aims to generate $\$ 1$ billion in annual free cash flow, and use this sum for share buybacks and dividend payments.
We've pared our target Average Annual P/E ratio to 14 from 15. This move reflects the view that retailers serving middle-class shoppers will face pressure from discount stores over the next few years. But, these untimely shares are selling around a three-year low and have healthy 3- to 5-year appreciation potential, due to a mix of private label and exclusive brands, a growing e-commerce business, and strong finances.
J erome H. Kaplan
stock splits.
Excl. nonrecurring loss: 10
report due February 28th.
(A) Fiscal year ends the Saturday closest
January 31st of the following calendar year.
(B) Primary EPS through '96, diluted there- (C) Dividend initiated $3 / 11 / 11$. Paid in late after. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. March, June, September, and December.

Company's Financial Strength
Stock's Price Stability
Price Growth Persistence
Price Growth Persistence
Earnings Predictability

